

PARACRASPEDOMERUS, A NEW GENUS OF STAPHYLINID
BEETLE FROM NEW CALEDONIA

(Coleoptra: Staphylinidae)

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In 1911 Bernhauer described the genus *Craspedomerus*, basing it on *Philonthus glenoides* Schubert from India. He placed it in a new subtribe, Craspedomeri, in the tribe Staphylinini of the subfamily Staphylininae. Three more species of the genus have since been described from India by Cameron (1932). In 1927 Bernhauer placed in the subtribe a new genus and species, *Pseudocraspedomerus alutaceus* from New Guinea. I have recently received from Dr. William C. Stehr a series of fifteen specimens from New Caledonia of a species which obviously belongs in this subtribe but is sufficiently distinct from the other two genera to require the proposal of a new genus. It was described in 1877 by Fauvel as *Cafius speculifrons* and later in 1889 removed by him to *Hesperus*, where it is equally out of place.

Paracraspedomerus Moore, new genusType species: *Cafius speculifrons* Fauvel

Head large, orbicular; disc impunctate; base and sides strongly, coarsely and closely punctate. Eyes occupying little more than half the side of head, not interrupting side margin; a short, infraorbital ridge directly beneath eye, not extending to base of head. Neck about one-third the width of head. Labrum transverse, emarginate in middle, with a very wide, arcuate, membranous border which is emarginate centrally. Mandibles long, curved, sharply pointed, each with a small basal tooth internally, with a deep groove on outer margin. Maxillary palpi moderately long; first segment short and curved; second long, narrow at base, strongly curved, thick at apex; third about as long as second, narrower, widened to apex; fourth a little longer and narrower than third, a little narrowed at base and at apex, apex truncate. Ligula small, rounded in front, membranous. Gular sutures united at basal third (very narrowly separated in one specimen), diverging anteriorly. Mentum transverse, narrowed to the front, side margins slightly curved and raised in a strong ridged edge, anterior margin gently arcuate. Labial palpi with first segment twice as long as wide, second a little longer and somewhat thicker apically, third about as long as second, somewhat thicker at middle and thence narrowed to the truncate apex. Antennal fossae located near anterior margin of head, inside bases of mandibles. Antennomeres densely pubescent from fourth segment, outer segments as wide as long. Pronotum subtrapezoidal, anterior angles prominent, narrowed basally; disc with a series of three punctures each side of middle and a small group of large and small punctures laterally; anterior angles and lateral margins with

a few large and small punctures. Hypomera strongly inflexed, superior and inferior lateral lines united far forward near neck, with a oblique carina joining superior lateral line at about basal third, crossing hypomera and uniting with inferior lateral line near apical third, areas between lines impunctate. Prosternal epimera absent. Prosternum tumid in middle, divided by a transverse carina which is posteriorly angulate centrally; posterior section expanded under coxae. Mesocoxae widely separated. Mesosternal process extending about one-third the distance between coxae, broadly rounded; metasternal process extending about one-fourth the distance between coxae, broadly rounded; region between the two processes depressed. Elytra wider and a little longer than pronotum, strongly, densely punctured. Abdomen shining, strongly, sparsely punctured at bases of tergites. First three tergites deeply impressed at base. First two sternites strongly constricted basally. First five sternites very strongly sculptured basally, the sculpture consisting of several very closely placed transverse rows of very large, deep punctures arranged in an imbricate pattern, each puncture shaped like an elongate horseshoe, with a large seta near its anterior margin. Tibiae strongly spinose. First four segments of anterior tarsi dilated in both sexes, more strongly so in male. Middle tarsus with first segment thickest, longer than next three together; next three short, decreasing very slightly in length; fifth slender, a little shorter than preceding three. Posterior tarsi very similar to middle tarsi, but with segments two, three and four slightly longer relative to their width.

This genus differs from the other two genera of the subtribe in many features, several of which are outlined in the key to the genera below. A very striking feature of the genotype is the unusual sculpture of the abdominal sternites. The fifteen specimens studied were identified from Fauvel's description, and Dr. Charles Seevers later verified my determination by comparison with a specimen so identified in the Bernhauer collection. Specimens have been sent to the following people or institutions: California Academy of Sciences, Chicago Natural History Museum, United States National Museum, Dr. Milton Sanderson and Dr. William C. Stehr. The remainder are at present in my own collection.

KEY TO THE GENERA OF THE SUBTRIBE CRASPEDOMERI

- 1—Middle coxae narrowly separated; mesosternal process acute; metasternal process not produced between the coxae; tergites not impressed at base; pronotum moderately densely punctured throughout
*Craspedomerus* Bernhauer
- Middle coxae widely separated; mesosternal process broadly rounded; metasternal process produced between the coxae; first two tergites impressed or shallowly concave at base; pronotum with a series of two or three discal punctures each side..... 2
- 2—Sternites 1 and 2 strongly constricted at base; first five sternites coarsely, densely sculptured; third tergite impressed at base; pronotum

tum with a series of three discal punctures on each side; third segment of labial palpi not shorter than second....*Paracraspedomerus* Moore
 —Sternites not constricted at base, not strongly sculptured; third tergite not impressed at base; pronotum with two discal punctures on each side; third segment of labial palpi shorter than second
*Pseudocraspedomerus* Bernhauer

Dr. William C. Stehr has generously given me the fine series of specimens which made this study possible. Dr. Charles Seevers and Mr. Rupert Wenzel arranged for the loan of specimens of two species of *Craspedomerus* from the Bernhauer collection. Dr. Seevers has taken considerable pains to supply me with additional information concerning the type of *Pseudocraspedomerus alutaceus* Bernhauer, including several original sketches. Mrs. Mildred Meeder has kindly negotiated the loan of several publications not available locally. To the above and to Mrs. Helen Moore, who has spent many tedious hours typing for me, I wish to express my gratitude.

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